

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 AID-05 IGA-02 FAA-00 DOTE-00
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P R 210052Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EAIR, UV, US

SUBJECT: PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES (PAAI)

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REFS: (A) OUAGADOUGOU 1352, (B) BIGELOW-HOUDEK TELECON
4/19/77 (C) STATE 74947

1. COUNTRY OFFICER HAS CONTACTED BOTH COL. THOMAS
ROBERTSON AND MR. ALBERT PAXTON REGARDING REFTEL REQUEST
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON PAAI'S BELFAST DEMONSTRATION
FLIGHT TO UPPER VOLTA. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THEIR REPLIES
DIFFERED GREATLY. THEY ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A) ROBERTSON CLAIMED THAT PLANES WOULD BE FULLY REGISTERED
AND READY FOR FLIGHT OPERATIONS O/A MAY 15, AND SUGGESTED
THAT THE EMBASSY RECOMMEND TO THE FORNMIN A DATE FOR
DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT IN THE MAY 15 - JUNE 15 TIMEFRAME
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HOWEVER, ROBERTSON SAID, TIMING MIGHT DEPEND ON WHAT THE
VOLTANS HAVE IN MIND FOR THE DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT, SINCE
HE DOES NOT EXPECT THAT THEY WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH A
SIMPLE TAKEOFF AND LANDING AT OUAGA AND BOBO-DIOULASSO.
ROBERTSON BELIEVES EMBASSY SHOULD SEND NOTE TO FORNMIN RE
DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT ASAP AND FOLLOW UP WITH INQUIRY AS
TO STATUS OF PROTOCOL BETWEEN GOUV AND PAAI.

B) PAXTON, ON OTHER HAND, POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD NOT CLEARED ROBERTSON'S APPROACH TO GOUV REGARDING DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT AND THAT ANY SUCH FLIGHT IMPOSSIBLE PRIOR TO MAY 15 (WHEN REGISTRATION SHOULD BE COMPLETED). PAXTON ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS PRIMARY CONCERN WAS TO GENEATE A CASHFLOW, SO THAT SHORT-TERM NOTES FINANCING BELFASTS THAT WERE RECENTLY NEGOTIATED COULD BE REPAID. THEREFORE, SAID PAXTON, HE WAS MORE INTERESTED IN ACCEPTING ONE OF APPROXIMATELY TWENTY OFFERS FOR CHARTERS THAN IN SENDING ONE OF BELFASTS TO OUAGA FOR NON-REVENUE GENERATING DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT. AS REPORTED REF C, PAXTON NOW CONTROLS MAJORITY OF PAAI STOCK.

2. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT PAAI SEND US REQUEST IN WRITING FOR ASSISTANCE IN SECURING CLEARANCE FOR DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT. WE HAVE TOLD ROBERTSON WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT WISH TO PUT EMBASSY IN THE POSITION OF REQUESTING CLEARANCE FOR A FLIGHT THAT PAAI IS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE. WE SHALL NOTIFY THE EMBASSY WHEN THIS REQUEST IS RECEIVED.

3. ON QUESTION OF LEASING QUARTERS FOR AID, ROBERTSON GIVES HIS FULL CONSENT TO THE TERMS OUTLINED REFTTEL. HE HAS ALREADY SENT TELEX TO MR. TRAORE OF SAED GRANTING PERMISSION TO AID TO NEGOTIATE IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY OF HIS BUILDING WITH THE LANDLORD.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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